

## The Dividing Nature of Sin

### Scripture

"If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers, "of the gods of the people which [are] all around you, near to you or far off from you, from [one] end of the earth to the [other] end of the earth, "you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him; "but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. "And you shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. "So all Israel shall hear and fear, and not again do such wickedness as this among you." (De 13:6-11 NKJV)

### Devotion

We have here the capital punishment for those who would lead the children of Israel into idolatry. The seriousness of this sin is seen in the fact that even their closest relatives and friends were not to be exempted from punishment if found guilty.

Of course under the New Covenant we no longer follow all the laws that were specifically designed for Israel. However, the serious nature of sin is revealed to us by examining such. Sin is still to be dealt with directly. Today, if a person is found in unrepentant sin, they are to be excommunicated from the Church. Notice the pertinent passages.

EXAMPLE 1: "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' "And if he refuses to hear them, tell [it] to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector." (Mt 18:15-17 NKJV)

EXAMPLE 2: "I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet [I] certainly [did] not [mean] with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner— not even to eat with such a person. For what [have] I [to do] with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person." (1Co 5:9-13 NKJV)

Jesus pointed out that the separating nature of sin did not just work one way. The wicked will separate from the righteous in many cases. "Do [you] suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law." (Lu 12:51-53 NKJV) This He said to show the great animosity between the lost and the redeemed. Once converted the closest relatives of the redeemed will often turn against him. Therefore, we see the truth of the Scriptures: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?" (2Co 6:14 NKJV)

The point is sin separates people from God, the Body of Christ, and even each other. We are not to pull back from those outside the church, but we are to shine in comparison. As it is written, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Mt 5:16 NKJV) This contrast will often provoke attacks against a believer. However, we must never allow the unbelievers to entice us with their sin. Should a believer entice you, then you must deal with them directly following the prescribed manner.

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." (1Jo 5:21 NKJV)